FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE HONG KONG BUREAU

MHK-5002 2 March 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service

THROUGH : Chief, Operations Group

SUBJECT: Monthly Report--Hong Kong Bureau--February 1985

I. GENERAL

- A. As reported earlier, the Consulate intends to improve physical security around the main building. The first of the more visible changes planned could be seen this week as construction of a new 10-foot high iron perimeter fence got underway. There are no enhanced security measures planned at this time for St. John's building.
- B. A 2-day China reporting conference was held at the Consulate 28 Feb-1 Mar. State, USIS, and military representatives from Beijing, the consulates at Shanghai. Shenyang, and Guangzhou, Taiwan, and Washington attended. sat in as an observer during the first day's sessions which covered PRC foreign and domestic policy issues. Five participants visited the bureau the afternoon of the second day for a short briefing and tour.

II. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

- 1. Starting 3 March, a staff editor will be scheduled to work each Sunday shift on a regular basis. Heretofore, had handled all priority editorial tasks while carrying out his regular Sunday monitorial duties. Recently, with the addition of AFP coverage and more action generally on Sundays, the editorial workload has increased. Editors have had to be called in overtime to assist ______ With a staff editor on duty, _____ will be able to devote full time to monitoring activities. Associate editors will be given some slot duties during the Mon-Fri dayshifts to smooth out the editorial work schedule.
- 2. Bureau monitors observed that Philippine President Marcos sounded unusually tired and unresponsive during a 26 February press conference. This was reported to LRB, comparing his slurred words and tired response on that occasion to an enthusiastic speech he had delivered just 9 days earlier. LRB requested that both tapes be sent into Headquarters for evaluation.

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4. We have started receiving Beijing JINGJI RIBAO, the economics daily, the day after publication. The paper is being supplied by the same news vendor who gets us RENMIN RIBAO on the day of publication. It had been taking us 5-7 days to get the paper.

B. <u>Lateral Services</u>

- 1. At the request of Sharon Horton, head of the Trade Development Program (TDP), copies of items on Philippine economic issues and certain PRC trade and development projects are being forwarded to her. TDP is one of the U.S. Government offices located in our building.
- 2. The bureau has been sending occasional video tapes directly to Camp Zama, Japan at their request. They are providing replacement tapes. Interest in receiving such tapes was reiterated during a recent visit to the bureau by a DIA official from Zama. (see "Visitors") He was told that we had no objection to an occasional ad hoc request for a tape providing they continued to replace the tapes. He said they would carefully monitor the number of requests and insure that they not get out of hand. The direct requests to the bureau were prompted by what he referred to as the "hopeless delays" in getting such tapes through normal DIA channels via our VSLs. He said they had just received in early February a tape of the 1 October National Day parade in Beijing.

III. ADMINISTRATION

- A. The bureau gained one employee and lost another during the month, leaving us at our full T/O Our new teletype operator, EODed on the 25th; a monitor who had been with us nearly 3 years, resigned on 2 March to go to work for an advertising firm.
- B. Details of the Consulate's proposed new retirement plan for local employees were released during the month. But the premature release of the plan merely served to create a lot of confusion in the minds of most Consulate locals. The plan, as it was publicized, is only what State would like to see implemented. The Consulate has yet to confirm that any local underwriters can agree to the terms and conditions requested by State. It appears that it will be some time yet before a plan is agreed to by all concerned. A copy of the State-proposed plan was given to Chief/Admin Staff during his visit here.

C. Six bureau	employees (the chief, the	e secretary,
	and our ju <u>nior technicia</u>	an) participated in the
2-week IBM PC trair	ing session	

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AA	computer trainer, to conduct the PC training program, 3-17 February.
в.	during an overnight layover enroute back rip to Australia, 6 February.
C. Sh (TDP), and FBIS, 17 F	aron Horton, chief of the Trade Development Program a senior TDP official from Washington, for a briefing or ebruary.
D. Zama and H	, DIA representatives from Camp awaii respectively, for a briefing on the bureau and FBIS
while visi	ting other facilities in Hong Kong, 19 February.
while visi	for bureau familiarization as part of a he Far East bureaus, 27 February-3 March.
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Attachments:

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Monthly Production Report

cc: Original and 3 - Hqs

C/Bangkok

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